

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, at line 8, with the following paragraph, which is marked by showing added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~:

As shown in Figs. 1a and 1b, the switching device 1 includes: connecting unit 11 that connects each terminal to a corresponding private computer in the default status, and changes over a connection destination of a terminal to a private computer corresponding to this terminal or the shared computer when a connection switching request transmitted from this terminal has been received; enciphering unit 23 that executes an identification processing ~~to~~of the data that has been received from one terminal and that is to be output to the private computer or the shared computer, as security unit for each terminal, and that executes an enciphering processing for each terminal, on the data that has been transmitted from one terminal and received by the switching device 1; private computer deciphering unit 24 that executes a deciphering processing corresponding to the enciphering processing ~~own~~ that is local to a terminal of one private computer, on the data that has been output from the switching device 1 to this private computer; shared computer deciphering unit 25 that executes a deciphering processing corresponding to the enciphering processing for a terminal currently connected to the shared computer, ~~to~~of the data that has been output from the switching device to the shared computer; and posting unit 12 that posts a connection status of the shared computer and each terminal to the shared computer and each terminal.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, at line 19, with the following paragraph, which is marked by showing added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~:

The Scroll Lock key, the Num Lock key and the Caps Lock key are examples of keys on which ~~leads~~LED's exclusive to these keys are provided on the keyboard. Among these keys, each time when the Num Lock key is depressed, a key input mode is changed over between the ten-key mode and the normal keyboard mode. An exclusive LED is lighted or extinguished each time the key is depressed. Each time the Caps Lock key is depressed, a key input mode is changed over between the capital letter alphabet mode and the small letter alphabet mode. An exclusive LED is lighted or extinguished each time the key is depressed. As explained above, the key input mode is changed when the Num Lock key and the Caps Lock key are depressed, and this causes a trouble with the intrinsic key operation on the keyboard. On the other hand,

each time the Scroll Lock key is depressed, an exclusive LED (hereinafter to be referred to as a "scroll lock LED") on the keyboard is lighted or extinguished, but there is no change in the key input mode due to the depression of this key.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, at line 37 and continuing on page 23, with the following paragraph, which is marked by showing added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~:

As explained above, when a terminal and a private computer have been installed on the connector of any one of the sets of the KB microcomputers 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D and the private PC microcomputers 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D shown in Figs. 1a and 1b, an ID number that shows that the terminal and the private computer have been connected to the connector is written into a RAM (not shown) within the corresponding one of the KB microcomputers 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D and into a RAM (not shown) within the corresponding one of the private PC microcomputers 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D. ID numbers of connectors on which terminals and private computer have not been installed are not written into RAMs. The ID number may be the one ~~own~~local to each of the KB microcomputers 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D. In this case, ID numbers of the KB microcomputers 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D are set to "1", "2", "3", and "4" respectively. The ID numbers of the private PC microcomputers 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D are the same as those of the KB microcomputers 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D respectively.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, at line 23, with the following paragraph, which is marked by showing added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~:

Next, at step S204, the enciphering unit 23 within the KB microcomputer executes the enciphering processing to the received key code. The key code transmitted from the terminal to the switching device 1 has eight bits. When the ID number of the KB microcomputer 3 is n, the enciphering unit 23 according to the present invention shifts the key code by n times in the direction from the highest bit to the lowest bit, as shown in Fig. 4. Therefore, the number n of the bit shift executed by the enciphering unit 23 is ~~own~~local to each of the KB microcomputers 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D. Although it is explained in the above that the bit is shifted from the highest bit to the lowest bit, the bit shift direction may be in the opposite order. Further, although the bit shifting method is used for the enciphering processing in the present invention, other enciphering processing may also be used